

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Klamath Field Office  
1312 Fairlane Road  
Yreka, California 96097

November 11, 1988

TO: Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force  
FROM: Ron Iverson  
SUBJECT: Draft minutes Task Force meeting November 1, 1988,  
Eureka, California

Attached for your review are minutes of the Eureka meeting of November 1, 1988, along with several attachments. I have followed each motion passed, assignment made, or other decision point with a line of asterisks.

Ron Iverson  
Recording Secretary

Attachments

NOTES ON KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE MEETING, 1 NOV  
88

The meeting was convened at 9:40 A.M. by vice chair Nat Bingham, with a quorum present. Minutes of the previous meeting, and agenda for this meeting (Attachment 1), were approved with no changes.

The report on proposed legislation was deferred.

Report on State and Federal funding. Jerry Grover reported that the Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for Fiscal Year 1989 contains \$1 million for the Klamath fishery restoration program. This funding is part of our operations base and need not be added each year. Later in the meeting, Mel Odemar reported that State of California funds available in FY 1988-89 for Klamath fish restoration are much less than anticipated, owing to revenue shortfalls and competing renewable resource demands. Funds known to be available total \$113,203 (see Attachment 3). State investments available for matching from previous fiscal years are considerable, however.

Report on status of Federal work plan for current fiscal year. Ron Iverson summarized status of projects to be Federally-funded. Most of these will be done through cooperative agreements, which are now in the works. Task Force discussion centered on two projects:

Project 1.1, long-range plan and environmental assessment for the fish restoration program. Iverson reported that the work statement for this project is being prepared for competitive award. The mission and goals committee was assigned to review the work statement for this project. Changes included addition of a public scoping session at the outset of plan development, and provision for Task Force review of public comments and direction to the contractor as to how these will be used in refining the plan. The Task Force will be involved in contractor selection through either a review of contractor qualifications and proposal by the entire group, or by a subcommittee consisting of Bingham, Orcutt, and Wilkinson.

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Project 3.1, education and public information. Iverson reported that the work statement for this project had been reviewed by the Service personnel manager, who had recommended contracting for the education portion, and hiring to accomplish the public information portion. The "resource specialist" position identified in the work statement was classified by the FWS personnel office as a fishery biologist, with full performance level GS-9.

After extensive discussion, this combination of hiring and contracting proved acceptable to the Task Force. The education subcommittee was assigned to redraft the education tasks to a

(Project 3.1 continued)

scale of about \$79,000 for FY 1989. It was agreed that the  
\*\*\*\*\*  
education establishment in Klamath Basin must be involved in, and  
concur with, the education project. Curriculums and other  
education products should be tailored to local needs and issues.  
Iverson has contacted the Siskiyou County Office of Education to  
determine if that agency would be interested in acting as  
cooperator in implementing the education project.

Regarding staff to be hired by Klamath Field Office, Iverson  
proposed to hire the resource specialist/fishery biologist in  
FY1989, and to hire the public information officer if and when  
workload develops. Steucke indicated that the Task Force would  
have an opportunity to comment on selection of the fishery  
biologist, that candidates for the position should be identified  
by about mid-December 1988, and that the Task Force will be  
consulted on all aspects of the information/education project.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Report on status of the non-Federal work plan for Fiscal Year  
1988-89

Mel Odemar explained that only two fishery restoration projects  
in Klamath River basin have been identified for State of  
California funding in the current fiscal year: Yreka Creek nature  
trail, \$11,000 from AB 1705; and fall chinook rearing at Fall  
Creek and lower Klamath ponds, \$102,203 from Bosco-Keene funds  
(see Attachment 3). Additional funds could become available from  
the Proposition 19 account, if funds now committed from that  
source to projects on the upper Sacramento are spared by Federal  
money.

Mel said that California will also fund Project 2.11,  
partitioning of chinook production estimates, which was approved  
by the Task Force for Federal funding. This will free \$50,800 of  
Federal funds.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Discussion ensued on what would constitute a non-Federal matching  
contribution to the Restoration Program through Fiscal Year 1989.  
It was left that Steucke, Odemar, and Wilkinson would draft a  
statement as to what would constitute an acceptable match, and  
bring that to the Task Force. Prior Task Force discussions  
\*\*\*\*\*  
indicated that non-Federal projects undertaken since signing of  
the Klamath Act in 1986 would be acceptable matching  
contributions, while earlier projects would be reviewed  
individually by the Task Force. Wally said that inability to  
demonstrate significant non-Federal matching could jeopardize  
Federal funding of the Restoration Program in future budgets.

Report of the mission and goals committee. Rod McInnis reported  
for this committee, consisting of McInnis (chair), Schafer,

Odemar, Orcutt, and Mitch Farro representing Nat Bingham. Rod distributed a draft Statement of Goals (Attachment 4). The following comments refer to that Statement.

Rod explained that a goal of providing technical information to the Klamath Fishery Management Council, included in an earlier draft, had been dropped. Gathering and analysis of information is an appropriate function of the Task Force, and is encompassed by Goals 1 and 3.

Rod also explained that Goal 1 is intended to focus on natural production. Odemar said this is consistent with new State of California policy on anadromous stocks, as set forth in the recently enacted SB 2261.

Other comments included:

Goal 1.

- o Add brown trout as a priority species (not adopted)
- o Delete last sentence prioritizing species and stocks (adopted)
- o Rewrite the first sentence to read, in part (new language underlined): ..."protecting the amount and quality of spawning and rearing habitat and instream flows to maximize the production of..." (adopted)

Goal 2.

Discussion: Several members commented that Goal 2 seems to unnecessarily limit the uses of artificial propagation. It was agreed to rewrite the goal as: "Develop and maintain artificial production programs to meet mitigation goals and production needs, and to serve as an interim measure to accelerate rebuilding the natural populations."

Goal 3.

It was agreed this statement should be rewritten as a restoration goal, rather than the activity of coordination.

Goal 4

- o Revise to: "Build public support for continued protection and beneficial use of the Klamath Basin anadromous fish productivity..."

McInnis said he would circulate a revised goals statement to the mission/goals committee, and then to the Task Force.

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Fiscal year 1990 planning and budgeting.

Chairman Steucke recommended a planning process similar to that for FY1989, but earlier. He appointed an ad hoc committee to do planning/budgeting for FY1990: Pierce (chair), Odemar, Iverson representing Steucke, and Mitch Farro representing Bingham. This group was charged with developing their own process, including a way to get ideas and project proposals from outside the inner circle of the Task Force and agency staff.

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Steucke said a rough work plan for FY1990 should be in hand by early February 1989. This will probably not affect the Federal appropriation, which Wally said will most likely be \$1 million for Klamath fishery restoration. FY1989 funds not expended will be carried over, he said.

Next Task Force meeting. Steucke recommended a meeting in late January 1989, to provide for timely involvement in contracting the long-range plan. The next meeting was scheduled from 1 P.M. on January 31 to noon on February 1, 1989.

Public comment.

Concern was expressed that the requirement for 50% non-Federal participation in the Klamath Fishery Restoration Program is diverting State of California funds from other river basins.

Bill Kier provided an update and handouts (Attachments 5 and 6) on a comprehensive State of California program on anadromous fish established by SB 2261. Mel Odemar pointed out that the law provides a six month period for planning the program, which will be well along by the time of the next Task Force meeting. California Department of Fish and Game will reorganize to accommodate the new program.

ATTACHMENT 1

KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE

MEETING AGENDA

November 1, 1988

9:00 A.M. Call to order

9:10 Correction and approval of minutes and agenda

9:20 Report on proposed legislation (Taylor)

H.R. 4030, proposed amendments to the Klamath River  
Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act

H.R. 2513, proposed studies of Russian River fishery  
resources

H.R. 4469, partitioning Hoopa reservation lands

10:00 Report on funding for the current State and Federal  
fiscal years (Odemar and Steucke)

10:30 Break

10:50 Report of the technical work group on status of the  
work plan for Federal Fiscal Year 1989 and State  
Fiscal Year 1988-89.

Federally-funded work plan component (Iverson)

State-funded work plan component (Odemar)

12:00 Lunch

1:15 P.M. Technical work group report (continued)

2:00 Report of the ad hoc committee on Task Force  
mission and goals (McInnis)

2:30 Other old business

2:45 Break

3:00 Federal Fiscal Year 1990 budget process (Steucke)

3:30 Task Force direction to staff on FY1990 work plan

4:00 Other new business

## ATTACHMENT 2

### KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE

Attendance Roster, meeting of November 1, 1988.

#### TASK FORCE MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Nat Bingham	California Commercial salmon fishing industry
Don DeVol	Del Norte County
Rod McInnis	National Marine Fisheries Service
Mel Odemar	California Department of Fish and Game
Mike Orcutt	Hoopa Indian Tribe
Ronnie Pierce	Humboldt County
Jim Smith	Trinity County
Wally Steucke	Department of Interior
George Thackeray	Siskiyou County
Keith Wilkinson	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

<u>Absent</u>	
Bob Rice	Department of Agriculture
Phil Schafer	California in-river sport fishing community

#### OTHERS ATTENDING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Charles Dunn	USFWS
Alldaron Laird	TFC
Bill Kier	Advisory Committee on Salmon/Steelhead
Mitch Farro	Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Marketing Assoc.
Phillip Baker	CDFG
Diane Higgins	Educational Interests
Bill Brock	
Doug Denton	DWR
Steve Madrone	RCAA
Stu Ogburn	CCC
Nancy Reichard	Redwood Community Action Agency
Bob Hayden	
Karole Overburg	BIA
RD Eden	BIA
Patricia Whitehouse	
Del Robinson	
Jud Ellinwood	CA Salmon/Steelhead Trout Rest.

# ATTACHMENT 3

## ®Status of State Funding Approvals Klamath - Trinity River Basins

1988/89 (preliminary)

	Klamath River	Trinity River	Total
SB 1705	\$ 11,000	-	\$ 11,000
B-K	\$102,203	\$38,212	\$140,415
P-19	unknown	-	-
Total	\$113,203	\$38,212	\$151,415

1987/88 (approved)

	Klamath River	Trinity River	Total
B-K	\$ 30,400	\$ 59,100	\$ 89,500
P-19	\$476,000	\$ 25,000	\$501,000
Salmon Stamp	-	\$197,700	\$197,700
	\$506,400	\$281,800	\$788,200

### Fund Condition - 1988/89 (preliminary)

SB 1705      \$5.0 million approved  
                  \$1.25 million appropriated  
                  \$850,000 (approx) available for projects  
                  \$375,000 (approx) set aside for personnel (2-yrs)

Salmon Stamp      \$ 950,000

B-K      \$ 703,000 appropriated

P-19      \$1,101,694 appropriated  
                  \$ 500,000 Trinity River set-aside  
                  \$ 601,694 available for projects



**DRAFT**

## KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE

## STATEMENT OF GOALS

**Mission:** This Task Force was established under the Klamath Basin Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (P.L. 99-552) to assist the Secretary of the Interior to "...formulate, establish, and implement a 20-year program to restore the anadromous fish populations of the Area to optimum levels and to maintain such levels."

The Task Force proposes the following four goals for the 20-year restoration program.

Goal 1

Optimize the production of smolts per natural spawner and improve the survival of smolts through the system by restoring and protecting the amount and quality of spawning and rearing habitat to maximize the production of Klamath Basin anadromous species. In pursuing this goal, the Task Force ranked anadromous species in the following priority: Fall chinook, steelhead, spring chinook, coho and others.

Goal 2

Develop and maintain artificial production programs to meet mitigation goals and to serve as an interim measure to accelerate rebuilding the natural populations.

Goal 3

Provide coordination and project overview throughout the life of the program for activities by Federal, State, Tribal and county agencies represented on the Task Force that effect anadromous fish species.

Goal 4

Build public support for continued protection of the Klamath Basin anadromous fish productivity through a program of information and education and by encouraging local community involvement in restoration projects.

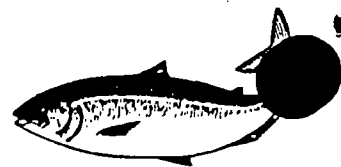
11-1-88



Hoopa Valley Business Council

*Fisheries Department*

Post Office Box 417  
Hoopa, California 95546



M E M O

DATE: October 17, 1988

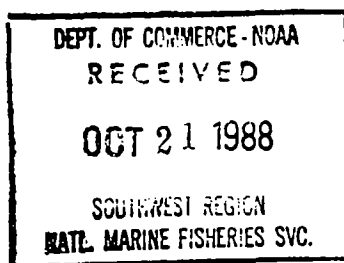
TO: Rod McInnis, Chairman, Klamath River Basin Fisheries  
Task Force, Mission and Goals Ad Hoc Committee

FROM: Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Fisheries Department *M.O.*

SUBJECT: Draft Goal Statement

Attached is our Fisheries Department comments on the Task Force Goals and Mission Statement. Our comments are minor and only seek to clarify the goals statement.

Attachment



Goal 1

Ensure that mainstem river and tributary streamflows below diversions are adequate to promote salmonid spawning, ensure egg survival, and promote rearing of fry and juveniles through avoidance of drastic flow fluctuations or dewatering of critical habitat.

Goal 2

Develop artificial production programs which are consistent with hatchery mitigation goals and serve as an interim means of rebuilding natural spawning fish populations.

Determine both short and long term rebuilding goals.

Ensure that artificial production programs do not adversely effect naturally spawning fish stocks.

Goal 3

Provide coordination between appropriate agencies which make recommendations designed to protect and maintain fishery habitat.

Recommend land management practices which protect and maintain watersheds within the Klamath River Basin.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1312 Fairlane Road  
Yreka, CA 96097

13 October 1988

FROM: Ron Iverson

TO: Rod McInnis

SUBJECT: Draft goals statement

Thanks for inviting my comments on the statement your committee drafted on September 30. I would say the draft is a good start. I am curious, though, as to why the committee excised, from the goal statement, references to assisting the Klamath Fishery Management Council.

Two reasons come to mind for keeping harvest management connected to the restoration program, in the goals statement:

- o The Klamath Act (par. 460ss-3(b)(4)) says "The Task Force...may act as advisor to the Council."

- o I don't believe there will be effective long-term restoration of fish stocks without an adequate understanding of their biology, including harvest impacts. The Klamath Act is one of the few fish restoration authorities that is not prejudiced against gathering of knowledge and information about the subject fish stocks. I think the goals statement should take advantage of this feature by emphasizing the need for a planned and informed approach.

Senate Bill No. 2261

CHAPTER 1545

An act to add Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 6900) to Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 1988. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 1988.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2261, Keene. Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act.

Existing law requires commercial fishermen who take salmon to obtain a commercial fishing salmon stamp for a specified fee. The revenue from the stamps is deposited in the Commercial Salmon Stamp Account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund and is continuously appropriated for new or expanded salmon restoration and enhancement programs on a matching fund basis, as specified.

This bill would enact the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, under which the Department of Fish and Game, with the advice of the Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout and the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee, would be required to prepare and maintain a detailed and comprehensive program for the protection and increase of salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries of specified content and to determine the initial elements of the program within 6 months of the effective date of the bill. The bill would make legislative findings and declarations relating to the program.

The bill would require the department to determine the initial elements of the program and report thereon to the Legislature and the advisory committee within 6 months of the enactment of the bill.

The bill would appropriate \$125,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund and \$166,000 from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund to the department to establish the program. The bill would also authorize the department to utilize specified federal funds for the program.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Appropriation: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds that the Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout, reestablished by Resolution Chapter

141 of the Statutes of 1983, has conducted a thorough inquiry into the decline of the naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout resources of the state and has presented to the public its findings and recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to protect and increase those resources. As a result of the advisory committee's inquiry, findings, and recommendations, the Legislature has recommended the establishment of a salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries program set forth in Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 6900) of Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code.

SEC. 2. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 6900) is added to Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code, to read:

#### CHAPTER 8. SALMON, STEELHEAD TROUT, AND ANADROMOUS FISHERIES PROGRAM ACT

##### Article 1. Citation and Legislative Findings

6900. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act.

6901. The Legislature, for purposes of this chapter, finds as follows:

(a) According to the department, the natural production of salmon and steelhead trout in California has declined to approximately 1,000,000 adult chinook or king salmon, 100,000 coho or silver salmon, and 150,000 steelhead trout.

(b) The naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout resources of the state have declined dramatically within the past four decades, primarily as a result of lost stream habitat on many streams in the state.

(c) Much of the loss of salmon and steelhead trout and anadromous fish in the state has occurred in the central valley.

(d) Protection of, and an increase in, the naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout resources of the state would provide a valuable public resource to the residents, a large statewide economic benefit, and would, in addition, provide employment opportunities not otherwise available to the citizens of this state, particularly in rural areas of present underemployment.

(e) Proper salmon and steelhead trout resource management requires maintaining adequate levels of natural, as compared to hatchery, spawning and rearing.

(f) Reliance upon hatchery production of salmon and steelhead trout in California is at or near the maximum percentage that it should occupy in the mix of natural and artificial hatchery production in the state. Hatchery production may be an appropriate means of protecting and increasing salmon and steelhead in specific situations. However, when both are feasible alternatives, preference shall be given to natural production.

(g) The protection of, and increase in, the naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout of the state must be accomplished primarily through the improvement of stream habitat.

(h) Funds provided by the Legislature since 1978 to further the protection and increase of the fisheries of the state have been administered by the Department of Fish and Game in a successful program of contracts with local government and nonprofit agencies and private groups in ways that have attracted substantial citizen effort.

(i) The department's contract program has demonstrated that California has a large and enthusiastic corps of citizens that are eager to further the restoration of the stream and fishery resources of this state and that are willing to provide significant amounts of time and labor to that purpose.

(j) There is need for a comprehensive salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries plan, program, and state government organization to guide the state's efforts to protect and increase the naturally spawning salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fishery resources of the state.

6902. The Legislature, for purposes of this chapter, declares as follows:

(a) It is the policy of the state to significantly increase the natural production of salmon and steelhead trout by the end of this century. The department shall develop a plan and a program that strives to double the current natural production of salmon and steelhead trout resources.

(b) It is the policy of the state to recognize and encourage the participation of the public in privately and publicly funded mitigation, restoration, and enhancement programs in order to protect and increase naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout resources.

(c) It is the policy of the state that existing natural salmon and steelhead trout habitat shall not be diminished further without offsetting the impacts of the lost habitat.

##### Article 2. Definitions

6910. Unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the definitions in this article govern the construction of this chapter.

6911. "Production" means the survival of fish to adulthood as measured by the abundance of the recreational and commercial catch together with the return of fish to the state's spawning streams.

6912. "Program" means the program for protecting and increasing the naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout of the state provided for in Article 3 (commencing with Section 6920).

### Article 3. Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program

6920. (a) The department shall, with the advice of the Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout and the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee, prepare and maintain a detailed and comprehensive program for the protection and increase of salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries.

(b) The department shall consult with every public agency whose policies or decisions may affect the goals of this program to determine if there are feasible means for those public agencies to help the department achieve the goals of this program.

6921. The program shall identify the measures the department will carry out to achieve the policies set forth in Section 6902.

6922. The program shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following elements:

(a) Identification of streams where the natural production of salmon and steelhead trout can be increased primarily through the improvement of stream and streambank conditions without effect on land ownership, land use practices, or changes in streamflow operations.

(b) Identification of streams where the natural production of salmon and steelhead trout can be increased only through the improvement of land use practices or changes in streamflow operations.

(c) Identification of streams where the protection of, and increase in, salmon and steelhead trout resources require, as a result of significant prior loss of stream habitat, the construction of artificial propagation facilities.

(d) A program element for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

(e) Recommendations for an organizational structure, staffing, budgeting, long-term sources of funding, changes in state statutes and regulations and federal and local government policy and such other administrative and legislative actions as the department finds to be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

(f) Identification of measures to protect and increase the production of other anadromous fisheries consistent with policies set forth in Section 6902.

(g) Identification of alternatives to, or mitigation of, manmade factors which cause the loss of juvenile and adult fish in California's stream system.

6923. Measures which are the responsibility of other agencies or persons, such as the repair or replacement of dysfunctional fish screens, are not eligible for funding under the program.

6924. The department shall determine the initial elements of the program and transmit a report describing those elements to the Legislature and the Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead

Trout within six months of the effective date of this chapter.

SEC. 3. The Department of Fish and Game shall determine the initial elements of the salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries program initiated pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 6900) of Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code, shall coordinate existing programs, and shall implement the elements of the program. In addition to the personnel positions authorized in the Budget Act of 1988, the department shall use moneys allocated to the salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide three additional personnel years for the purposes of maintaining a salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries program. The department shall annually submit a budget for the purpose of continuing this program.

SEC. 4. The sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) is hereby appropriated from the Environmental License Plate Fund, and the sum of one hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$166,000) is hereby appropriated from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund to the Department of Fish and Game to establish the salmon, steelhead trout, and anadromous fisheries program pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 6900) of Part 1 of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code. The department may also utilize its allocation of funds received pursuant to Chapter 10B (commencing with Section 777) of Title 16 of the United States Code for this program.

SEC. 5. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

The decline of naturally spawning salmon, steelhead trout, and other anadromous fish resources is occurring at such a rate that some segments of these native California fish may be threatened with extinction. In order to stop the decline and restore the fishery resource at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

## OUTDOORS

INSIGHTS *Ken Castle*

## Despite Record Catches, Salmon Future Is Dim

**O**n the surface, everything about salmon this year is going gangbusters.

Commercial landings of king salmon statewide totaled a record 1.3 million fish.

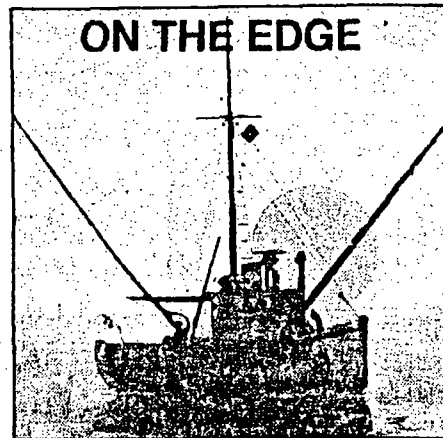
Sport fishermen, with two weeks left in the off-shore season, have reeled in over 166,000 chinooks — at most as good as last year's record 181,000.

And the Sacramento River, California's most important waterway for spawning, has seen more than 100,000 salmon pass through the gates at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. That run is being called the best in 40 years.

In short, everyone's eating and catching lots of salmon, and feeling pretty good about things.

But the salmon fishery is a lot like the stock market — unpredictable and volatile. And right now, in the midst of the euphoria, there's a time bomb ticking. And California's salmon and steelhead runs are definitely running out of time.

The plight of these fisheries can be seen in the two years of drought and the withering hot summer that has lowered rivers and raised water temperatures, thus



**Hard-hitting video details decline of fisheries**

affecting migrations and almost certainly damaging the 1991 generation of fish.

On the Sacramento River, biologists are worried that untold numbers of eggs from the endangered winter run of salmon already have been lost because of overheated water.

**T**here's more bad news. In another setback for Sacramento spawners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service quietly pulled the plug on the ailing Tehama-Colusa

Fish Facility, a \$28 million white elephant that was supposed to raise salmon in some five miles of man-made ditches next to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. Unfortunately, it never worked. The salmon didn't spawn in sufficient numbers, and lots of them got sick.

So this massive project, built and funded by the Bureau of Reclamation as mitigation for fish affected by the dam, goes down in history as another expensive brainstorm that fizzled.

Those are just this year's crises. According to a little-publicized report by the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout, a group appointed by the state Legislature in 1983, the outlook is anything but rosy for salmon and steelhead.

The report, called "Restoring the Balance," details the historic decline in native spawning runs during the last 30 years. In 1959, for example, the Sacramento River hosted 425,000 fall-run salmon and close to 40,000 winter-run fish. Virtually all spawning rivers have seen major declines, some by as much as 90 percent over the past three or four decades, said the report. Steelhead production has dropped to just 240,000 fish statewide.

The committee found a multitude of threats to the fishery: River habitat is being lost to dams and development; young salmon are being sucked into fields by shoddy irrigation practices; water critical for fish survival is squandered on ridiculously water-intensive crops such as cotton; and the state's system of hatcheries has put an emphasis on genetically weak fish at the expense of the native populations.

Moreover, said the committee, the Department of Fish and Game, relegated to its stepchild status in The Resources Agency, has been fighting a rear-guard action on all fronts — and steadily losing in back room compromises with other agencies.

**T**he report outlined 100 specific recommendations for enhancing salmon and steelhead. One of them — that the state should double salmon and steelhead populations by the year 2000 — became an "urgency" bill that was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Deukmejian last month.

Fearing that its report would be quickly buried in the graveyard of underappreciated reports in Sacramento, this 11-member volunteer group of mostly sport and commercial fishing representatives did something unprecedented. It decided to make a 28-minute film documenting the decline of salmon and steelhead and pleading for an all-out effort to save the resource.

A couple of weeks ago the video, entitled "On the Edge," made its debut before more than 500 key decision-makers, teachers, journalists and conservationists in a sneak preview at San Francisco's Steinbart Aquarium. Many of them left with copies of the hard-hitting documentary, which was produced by Katherine Dornier of Davis.

"We felt it was time to take our case to the public in a dramatic way," said William M. Kier, an independent fisheries biologist who was the committee's principal consultant. "We're hoping this video will be viewed by thousands of concerned citizens and schoolchildren. Only with an alert, activated constituency can we reverse the trend."

(If you want to buy a copy of the video, send \$12 plus \$5 handling and postage to Salmon and Steelhead, P.O. Box 2100, Davis, Calif., 95617-2100.)

The committee will need all of the support it can get for the 1989 legislative battles. And Fish and Game needs to hear this message from an aroused public. Get tough. Says Kier: "We're at the point where the rubber is meeting the road and Californians will have to decide whether or not they really care about fish and wildlife."